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ccc

FEEDBACK

LETTERS RECEIVED

Dear Black Flag,

As an ageing Anarchist (not 'anarchist') and a long time supporter of *Black Flag* — as well as a member of the *Brighton Bomber* Collective — I would like to reply to your editorial in issue 138.

When you write about *the lie repeated in a supposedly 'anarchist' publication* I assume you are referring to *one* article on the Class War rally, which was written by one Class War supporter (although there are others in the collective).

Perhaps there should have been some clarification of where we stand when they mentioned 'terrorism' and *Black Flag* in one sentence, but for the purposes of the article it didn't seem relevant.

At present we have no collective position but many of us support (to use your own terminology) *acts of retaliation against State terrorism*; the Angry Brigade, the Vancouver 5 etc., and even lend critical support to some of the European groups who have the same targets as us; RAF in Germany, CCC in Belgium etc. (even though they might conceivably be would be Statists and therefore by your definition *terrorists*).

I have criticised Class War and even sent back the similar paper *Angry* because of articles against 'terrorism' where they have suggested that there is little or no difference between the IRA and the NF. I have also condemned their view that bashing the rich scum on the street with a 2 by 4 is okay but destroying specific targets is not.

It needs to be made clear that individual acts are not the revolution, they merely help create the situation where revolution becomes possible. Our theory and propaganda must be strong enough so that anarchists are not overawed by spectacular bombings etc. and do not fall into the trap of hero worship but instead get out and do things themselves.

I think our argument is over words. It could be argued that 'retaliation is reactionary and that frightening the State is really 'terrorism'. How about armed resistance?

In conclusion, it is, as you suggest, time to define what we mean by terrorism but it is not a time (with a renewed interest in anarchism) to start driving wedges and a la the trots end up with 57 varieties of anarchism.

Salud y Anarquia

A member of the Ravachol fan club and the Brighton Bomber Group.

REPLY: Originally 'terrorism' meant armed resistance to acts of State terrorism specifically individual designed to curb State or other violence against workers or against minorities. It was then associated with anarchists, though they were not the only people employing such methods ie. John Brown's Harpers Ferry attack to help free the slaves in the USA. That is acceptable to us.

Today 'terrorism' has changed meaning to any sort of political violence usually directed against nationalities indiscriminately, and therefore the workers in particular, and we find this totally unacceptable.

Incidentally, Ravachol in no way fell into the second trap, directing his activities against the bourgeoisie specifically, as part of the general retaliation by the workers against the massacres of the 1870s, which the bourgeoisie carried out against the Paris workers, ie. the repression of the Commune in 1871.

Obviously the IRA cannot be compared with the NF but that is not to say it is not into power, which it clearly is.

You are either into governmental power or you are not, just as you either eat meat or you don't. Whatever you call yourself, there are no 'varieties' of anarchism. One cannot be a meat-eating vegetarian or a Republican anarchist. These are not variants, they are contradictions in terms.

Dear Black Flag,

. . .the @narchist scene in Manchester is picking up again. Quite a few new squats being opened up in Hulme (there were none before) and the local level of real cooperation between various groups and individuals seems to be improving all the time.

Princess Anne is coming down to open some new Law Courts in Sale on the morning of November 14th, no doubt a rowdy welcome is in store.

They've recently been a couple of hushed up riots in Manchester (Previous to Handsworth). One took place in Hulme — a vanload of pigs were trying to nick a kid supposedly for taking a car and pinned him up against the van. First of all punks in the flats started lobbing ½ bricks etc. then a gang of blacks stormed onto the scene delivering a sackload of well-aimed 'Broxton Confetti' upon the hapless filth who promptly scarpered (without, incidentally, the person they originally arrested).

There was also a skirmish in Salford but I wasn't there., I just heard about it, that cops got stoned and a few shops looted, all a bit vague really.

Anyhow, cheers for now.

@dam for TV-@M.

publications received

VIVRE LIBRE OU MOURIR! Live Free or Die. No 1. September 1985. French language. 36 pages. A new monthly Anarchist magazine from Liege, Belgium. Punk news from Liege, Belgium and abroad, anti-Popes visit activities, anti-Militarists; and lots more. 50p from: *V.Nahon & A.Renotte, 5 rue Vieuxtemps — Liege BELGIUM*

IZTOK No. 11. September '85. French language. 50 pages. Cuba, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia. ..analysis and literature. 20 Francs from: *BP 161—09—75422 Paris Cedex 09 FRANCE*

BLACK CHIP A journal of computing for Anarchists. Issue 3 1985. 60p. 16 pages. Networks and Micro computers, Review, Replies Letters and lots more. £2.00 subs. From: *R. Alexander 55 Dupont Road, SW20 8EH LONDON*

@NTI—COPYRIGHT An open group of people dedicated to producing posters for fly-posting. Rather than produce thousands for distribution to groups they want to spread around samples for photocopying etc. Anti-copyright also want to get other people's posters about. . . donations are welcome for copying, postage etc. All cheques/Postal Orders to be made out to: *Michael Bakunin, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1.*

BOOT 'EM No. 1. Autumn 1985. Free/ Stamped Addressed Envelope donation. A Southampton Anarchist paper. Local news. 8 pages. ASDA versus Totton squat, working for Minipack, Our dole or their throats. . .No Hurd Unstoned & more! *Boot 'em Box A1, c/o 4 Onslow Road, Southampton.*

ALIVE & KICKING Cambridge Anarchist News. 30p. Squatting in Cambridge; Police 5; Addenbrookes Hospital — Cambridge Health Authority members addresses and phone numbers. Down the Hatch (bunkers) sites, NIREX and lots more! From: *Box A, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.*

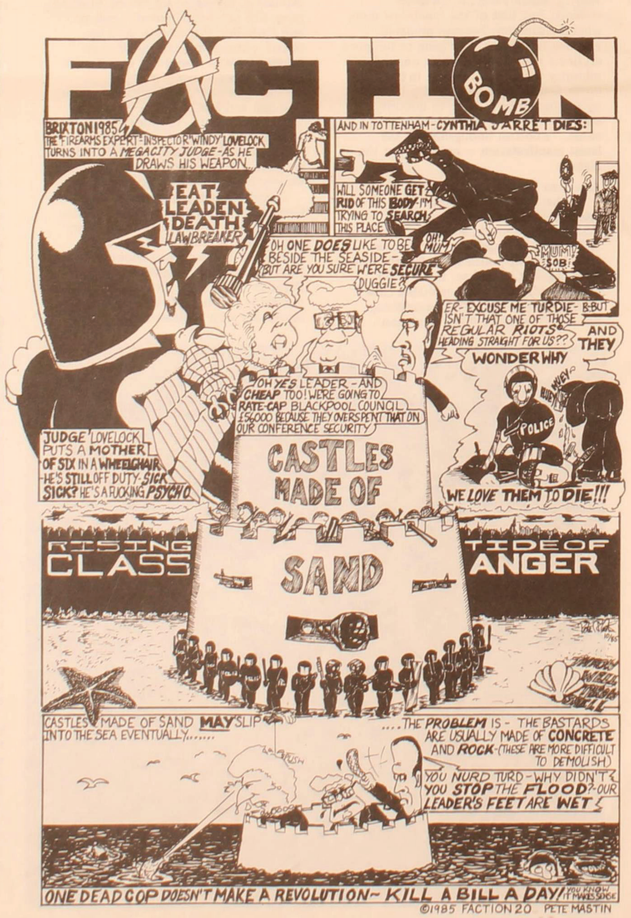
Valpreda Not Guilty

Continued from Page 5

and the victims transformed into formidable enemies of the state and its injustices.

For the state, the 'Pinelli case' is comparable to the 'Sacco and Vanzetti case' in the first half of the 20th century. In a few decades, Pinelli will be 'rehabilitated' by those in power, as has come to pass with the two Italian anarchists who were assassinated in Boston. This does not interest us in the least: for people in general, in spite of the repulsive verdicts like the Bari one (which assimilated anarchism and fascism, as the trial did from its inception), it has been evident for years *that* Valpreda is innocent, Pinelli was *assassinated, and the state is responsible for the Piazza Fontana bombing.*

Translated from Le Monde Libertaire, *journal of the French Anarchist Federation, from information received from* Rivista Anarchica, *Milan. Translation by Michael William.*



LIBERTARIAN TEACHERS

A group of anarchists working in the State schools would like to contact others interested in Libertarian Education both in and outside the existing system. Contact:
Veronica Keenan, 11a Glenarm Road, London E5 OLY
Richard Bircumshaw, 16 Wood Street, Bolton, Lancashire

APOLOGY

In our last issue (No. 141) we advertised the Anarchist Computing magazine, *Black Chip's* Readers Meeting on a Sunday, instead of *SATURDAY 26th OCTOBER*, which is the correct date. The meeting is from 2-6pm. All welcome. Sorry about the mix-up.

No. 142

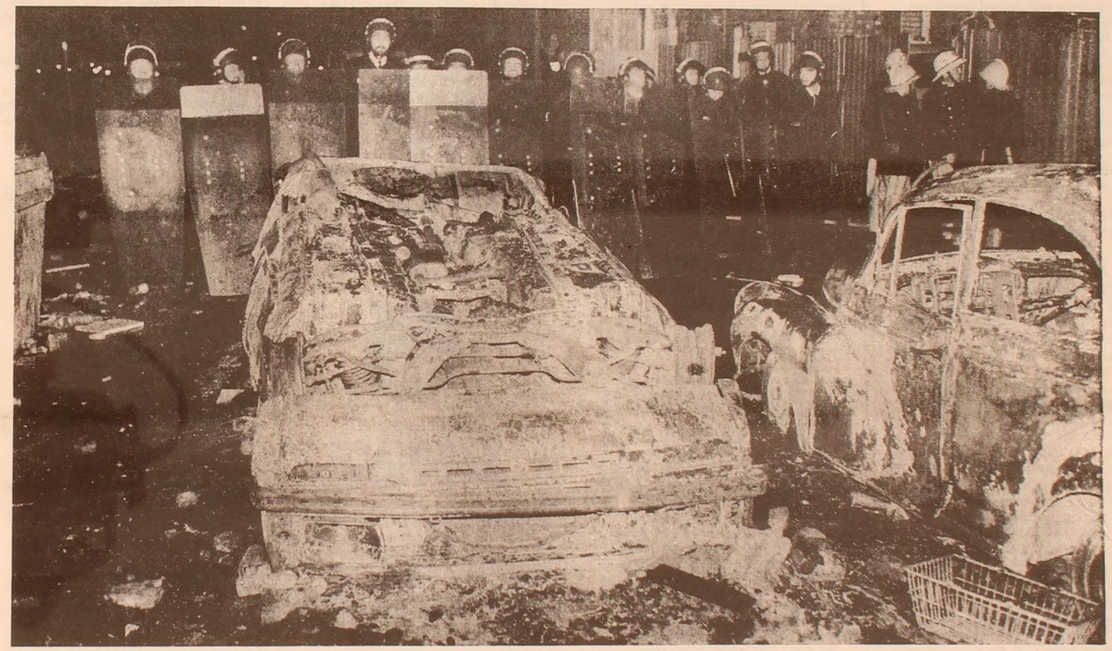
BLACK FLAG

30p

THE ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

21-10-85

TOTTENHAM SIEGE



On Sunday October 8th, the riot on Broadwater Farm Estate resulted in 1 cop dead and 220 cops being injured. Only eight rioters were arrested during the riot.

The seige of the Estate by police began after an angry public meeting there about the death of Cynthia Jarrett, aged 49, a black woman who died of a heart attack during a police raid on her home by cops looking for stolen property. Her family maintain the cops pushed her over and as she writhed in obvious pain, refused to help her, claiming she was 'shamming'.

As the meeting tried to march to the Tottenham Police Station, it ran into hundreds of police trying to seal off the area.

About 800 people began to stone the police lines, and the crowd then retreated into the entrances of the fortress-like Estate.

It was there that fierce fighting broke out as riot police charged into the 'award winning' Estate, to be met by furious resistance by the local youth, who hurled rocks pavement stones and petrol bombs at the cops, and aimed driver-less cars at the lines of baton-wielding cops.

The Post-office, the super-market in a nearby street were looted, and the super-market was soon on fire. As police and firemen were distracted by the blaze, a shotgun opened fire from the flats, thus injuring cops and journalists who had been skulking behind police lines.

As the supermarket blazed, PC Blakelock waded in on a group of kids watching events. He was screaming racial abuse, and as the kids defended themselves, he was slashed across the neck, and bled to death on the way to hospital.

Not so quick to be taken to hospital were victims of the riot police's truncheons, who lay in their own blood in the streets until ambulances finally arrived.

As more riot police charged, shots rang out again, and as the whole scene was lit up by burning cars, police were hit by paving stones thrown from walkways and balconies.

Police were converging on the scene in comandeered vehicles, due to the rioters success in burning police cars.

At midnight, heavy rain set in, but it didn't dampen the jubilation of rioters in the area. 'That will teach the evil bastards' said one black youth.

The riot had been contained, but the defence of the Estate had been fierce and successful.

Newman (ex-top cop from Ulster/North Ireland) the London Police Chief did not dare put in an appearance until late and the Estate was not retaken by cops until 4 in the morning. Douglas 'brick me' Hurd the Tory's Law & Order Supremo has not showed his face locally yet. He got bricked in Handsworth after the uprising so he did a secret trip to Brixton on Friday 4th to avoid any 'Brixton confetti'.

MORE NEWS ON RIOTS INSIDE. . .

TOTTENHAM — THE WEEK AFTER

On Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham, during the week after the riots, police got mail stopped for a week (to read it?) as a punishment for those on social security.

In the last few days, the police, mainly Special Patrol Group, have been invading the whole area, doing door to door questioning of locals, with search warrants for every flat on the Estate. When there is a cop killed its almost martial Law, if you are the victim of a fascist attack such as those Asian victims of arson murders, it seems to be the least of priorities. The police have kidnapped one 26 year old black man, four other 'juveniles' and of these four have charged one, a fifteen year old black youth with murder of PC Blakelock. They are holding them in separate, secret locations for fear of reprisals on the kidnappers.

RIOTS & RUMOURS OF RIOTS

In Harrogate, West Yorkshire, 100 people were reported to have been involved in stoning police cars and attacks on buildin

In Welshpool, mid Wales, police tried to arrest someone in the town, only to be met by a group of 50 youths who resisted the kidnapping.

In Southall, on Saturday October 10th, 100 Asians threw stones and bottles at a passing police car. They overturned another car and built a barricade. Later 2 petrol bombs were thrown and seven people arrested. In 1981 it was police harassment and a fascist 'night out' (ie. attacking Asian locals) in the area which was the spark for the July riots around the country.

HUNGER STRIKE OVER.

Anarchist Victor Armanious came off his hunger strike on Tuesday Oct 15th, after nearly two months without food. His demand to be released on bail was finally met by the Greek authorities after widespread protests by anarchists in Greece and abroad.

Anarchists in London held a demonstration outside the Greek Embassy in solidarity with Victor's demands on October 11th.



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BLACK FLAG READERS MEETING

In an effort to get more feedback and maybe offers of help (?) from our readers in London, there will be a *Black Flag* Readers meeting on Sunday 10th November in the evening. The meeting will be in the central London area, and will be announced in the next issue of *Black Flag*. If you need to know the venue sooner than that, write to us, and we'll send you details. Phone up 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, SE24 on 01-2746655 from 2-6pm near the date to confirm.

Come along with helpful suggestions, complaints, points for discussion, and ideas for distribution. There will be a small bookstall (back copies of *Black Flag Fortnightly, Quarterly, Supplements*, pamphlets and some books and posters) refreshments and a creche provided.

If you contact us in advance, we should be able to arrange overnight accomodation if you live outside the City.

Black Flag Collective.

QUESTION AND ANSWER ON ANARCHISM

Q: If workers control is the magic formula it's supposed to be, how will it stop the worker, in control of the factory, going home and beating his wife, or parents dominating their children?

A: Workers Control is the first step to a free society, neither a magic formula nor a panacea. Anarchism consists of a great deal more than workers control: but workers control is the only way to make sure people aren't forced by economic pressure to have to tolerate living with someone who beats them or dominates them, even psychologically. You could indeed, just possibly, have a patriarchal society *with* workers control; you could not have an anarchist society *without* direct control of the means of subsistence.

NORTH LONDON @ MEETINGS

'What is Anarchy'? was the title of a public meeting held at Islington Bus Company recently. Over 50 people turned up, and discussion covered the recent riotous uprisings, anti-fascist activity, sexism amongst anarchists, and a report was given on the situation in Greece, and the hunger strike of Victor Armanious. The need for local anarchist groups was talked over, and as the meeting had been a good contact point for isolated anarchists, another one has been planned. The meetings will be monthly – next is booked for November 12th, 7pm at Islington Bus Company, Palmer Place N7. Phone 274 6655 to confirm.

POLAND

Solidarity organisers calling for a boycott of elections were arrested and reports of political prisoners at Leczyca Prison being attacked have been smuggled out.

WEST GERMANY

One hundred people were arrested when 26,000 people marched through Munich against plans to build a £1.4bn. nuclear reprocessing plant in Upper Baravia. It was the largest demonstration in Munich since 1968. One cop was hurt and bands had their windows smashed as some young demonstrators fought with cops.

HOLLAND

Twenty-six people were arrested during clashes at a base at Woensdtrecht where the Government is to site cruise missiles.

HOME NEWS

Stop South African Business Day

NOTTINGHAM STOP SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS DAY SEPTEMBER 30th 1985.

Throughout the country groups concerned about the racist repression in South Africa and the continuing trade between Britain and South Africa have taken action against businesses and institutions which carry on this trade of death.

In Nottingham leaflets asking shop-workers and shop owners to stop selling and handling South African produce were distributed during the weeks before the SSAB Date. Five thousand leaflets were handed out around Nottingham. They claimed that the Co-op supermarkets had decided to stop selling SA goods, and that they wanted to get rid of what was left, at half price. The leaflets were well produced, and believed, so the Co-op had to put up posters denying the sale was taking place. ('Officially' Co-op has now decided to stop stocking South African goods at all it's outlets, the first major supermarket chain to do so. . .Tescos, Sainsburys etc., continue to profiteer).

Vouchers advertising 30p off Delmonte (South African) Fruit Juice, and Libby's were also distributed.

On the night of 29th September the windows were broken at Barclay's House and the ABC Cinema (owned by Thorn-EMI, suppliers of weapons to the South African regime).

Barclays and Midlands Banks in the city centre were sprayed with anti-apartheid slogans, had their cash-points glued up and 'blood' thrown over them. About 8 banks were done in all.

The town was saturated with fly-posters to publicise the action and the atrocities of apartheid. They named the Companies and products that the public are asked to boycott. Leaflets were handed out asking people not to buy South African. People then visited 2 co-ops (near Victoria Centre, Co-op House), Sainsburys Tescos and Markets. There stickers were plastered on SA products with ½ price stickers and trolleys were filled with SA products and left with explanatory posters.

Finally one woman was held by police after 2 activists reconditioned Co-op Broadmarsh's air with 'Fart Spray' and pursued through the city centre by store detectives. We hope these actions will help to highlight the issue of apartheid and draw attention to the atrocities in South Africa. People in England *do* feel strongly about the massacres and the repression over there and are prepared to act where governments have failed to.

We won't take no for an answer.

Although this was part of a day of action, our reprisals will carry on. We won't betray our solidarity with the South African people. We will continue to increase our attacks until positive steps are taken to liberate the black majority from the bonds of Apartheid.

Nottingham Smash SAB Federation.

HASTINGS STOP SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS DAY 30/9/85.

Initial reports suggest that it has been quite successful in Sussex. Here is a list of local actions which we heard of that either happened on the 30th or during the week or so leading up to it:

Barclays Bank, Eversfield Place – windows smashed on two separate occasions.
Barclays Bank, Harold Place – windows smashed on two separate occasions.
Sainsburys, Hastings Town Centre – window smashed.
National Westminster Bank, Preston Road, Brighton – petrol bombed.
Barclays Bank, Churchill Square, Brighton – window smashed.
Barclays Bank, St Georges Road, Brighton – window smashed.

Other activities in Hastings included phone blackading Barclays, the opening and closing of accounts in Barclays and the removal of South African goods from the shelves in Sainsburys and Tescos.

Obviously this is not a complete list of local actions and we haven't heard anything from further afield yet – more news when it becomes available.

We mustn't let it stop here. Apartheid exists in South Africa because it suits international capitalism that it should exist. SSAB was a response to the heightened resistance by the black working class in South Africa, that resistance now shows no signs of slacking off, quite the contrary, so we must keep up the pressure here as well.

SOURCE: POISON PEN



WE NEVER FORGET

SABOTAGE

Apart from Sussex and Nottingham, reports are coming in of attacks on South African businesses around the country. In London, Barclays Banks were smashed or superglued in Camberwell, Dalston, Streatham, Peckham, Tooting, The City, Barbican, Chelsea, Putney, Roehampton, and in Brixton (during the anti-police riots).

'Poisoned by Apartheid' stickers were put on SA fruit and meat in supermarkets. Leaflets with details of SA companies were distributed, and managers went crazy as they saw people checking out the goods for brand names.

False leaflets were distributed on Barclays notepaper promising a 'free Krugerrand' with every new account.

These are a few of the reports in so far – more are coming in, if anyone has heard of action on the grapevine, send it to us, and help combat the media black-out.

special offer!

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- LIBBY'S 1lt CARTONS
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COUPON LIMITED TO ONE PURCHASE PER CUSTOMER. REDEEMABLE ONLY FOR LIBBY'S AND DELMONTE FRUIT JUICES. OFFER EXPIRES 31st DEC 1985

-conditions are overleaf ▶▶▶

STOP BUSINESS AS USUAL NOV. 5th. A call has gone out for actions to take place on 5/11/85. Like the April 30th SBAU and the September 30th Stop South African Business Day it is up to local groups to leaflet, disrupt, superglue occupy, take-over what they can of the local corporate and State business. The usual Guy Fawkes pyrotechnics festival will provide plenty of noise and diversion on the night!

ANTI–RIOT GRENADE LAUNCHER LAUNCHER FOR GREENHAM

The editor of *Jane's Defence Weekly* has claimed that 15 anti-riot grenade launchers have been purchased for the USAF Crusie Missile base at Grenham Common, Berkshire. The grenades can be used against light armoured vehicles but can also be used for anti-riot purposes, in conjunction with CS gas grenades, etc. Known as the MK19, the launcher can fire grenades at 350 rounds per minute. It has been admitted that the US military at Greenham already have high explosive, anti-personnel grenades that fragment on impact, stored at the base for use with the MK19's.

SOURCE: Black & Red (York).

TRANSPORT

Government plans to privatise public transport by closing bus garages etc. led to walk-outs by bus workers in South London on 11th October and a call for a national strike by the Transport and General Workers union members.

D11 CONSPIRACY WITH AGENT PROVOCATEUR

The Home Office has admitted that D11 members, the Tactical Firearms Unit, were deployed at Stonehenge when the Peace Convoy was attacked and assaulted by riot police earlier this year. According to a paper published by the GLC Police Support Committee, Giles Shaw, a Home Office minister, has stated that 'as part of the contingency plan, a small team of (specialist) firearms officers was on hand' in the area of attack.

The only possible reason why members of D11 should have been deployed in the Stonehange vicinity is if they had been forewarned that members of the Peace Convoy were armed. None of the Peace Convoy members are armed, nor were they they at the time, but a local-based fascist had vainly attempted to sell semi-automatics to a small number of them prior to the drive to Stonehenge. And it was later revealed that this agent provocateur was none other than Les Vaughan, a Column 88 member and a fascist gun-runner who had set up a vigilante group in Salisbury to intimidate members of the Convoy. He was also employed by the National Trust, via local solicitors, to act as a bailiff on their behalf (see *Black Flag No. 134*). Vaughan obviously hoped that members of the Convoy would be stupid enough to purchase the weapons from him and there would be a bloodbath as soon as the police discovered that the Convoy was armed. D11 officers from the Tactical Firearms Unit (also known as the 'blue berets') were presumably in on the conspiracy, or had at least been tipped off by Vaughan at an earlier date.

The lesson here is, of course, to be wary of strangers offering guns (or explosives), or at least do a through check on them first before taking them seriously.

OR IS IT A CIA HOAX?

Yet another Vanguard of the Working Class Party has been formed with 'the usual five students, one worker, a woman to make the coffee and a police agent' (this time styling itself the Revolutionary Democratic Group, producing *Republican Worker* a stereotyped enough paper, with one difference in policy – but that significant – dividing it from all the others, Stalinists, Trotskyists, Maoists and what have you. It denies being 'Marxist, Leninist or Trotskyist' though paying obeisance to M, L & T. But it sees anarchism as the deadly enemy within the left. Not Anarchism as we know it, however. 'Anarcho-Stalinism' whatever that is (imagine Stalinism without government! Voluntary genocide, perhaps?That would be Marxist – Lemmingism).

All the other Marxist Leninists, from the CP to the Pabloites, from Cliff to the Oehlerites, all, all are 'anarcho-Stalinists'. 'Is this struggle against anarcho-Stalinism a new battle?' they ask, decrying their own inventiveness. 'No, Marx fought Bakunin, Lenin fought the Mensheviks and Trotsky fought Stalin'. How Lenin's struggle was to prevent non-Statism or Trotsky's to stop Stalin withering away the State is unclear.

'The idea of individual freedom, promoted by Western ruling classes, is a powerful weapon to justify the anarchy of capitalism. Promoting anarchy and disorganisation among the people is the means by which a relatively small group can dominate society'. So Stalin was into individual freedom, was he – and Trotsky opposed him for it?

They proudly announce, 'We are of the state capitalist tendency'. They sound like it too.



INDUSTRIAL

SWAN HUNTER OCCUPIED

On August 28th all workers at the four Swan Hunter shipyards on the Tyne (Wallsend & Neptune - operational/Walker & Hebburn - Care & Maintenance) downed tools to attend a mass meeting at the Newcastle City Hall. Discussions took place on the working conditions, practices and amenities, privatisation and Care & Maintenance of Hebburn Dock (the last Swan & Hunter yard on the South Side of the Tyne).

Shipyard workers agreed unanimously that their only weapon was that of an occupation and agreed that all four Swan Hunter yards should be completely taken over by the workers at 1pm on Sunday 1st September.

For the remaining days before occupation sit-in tactics were implemented, this was to enable all workers to receive wages that they were owed.

Sunday 1st saw a management attempt to stop the occupation. Management, all armed with sleeping bags etc. arrived at the yards at 12pm to take the yards themselves and lock out the workers. Their arrival at the yards saw the tables once again turned as on hearing of this action earlier on Sunday morning the yards had already been occupied by the workforce.

Banners proclaiming 'Now under workers control' and 'Under new management' were raised throughout the yards. All gates and entrances were either boarded up or welded shut and at the Wallsend Yard a crane had been placed across the raod way to prevent any vehicles from getting anywhere near the gates.

The situation remained almost the same for the next week although Shop Stewards began to hold informal talks with Management. On Friday 6th mass meetings were called throughout the yards. At Wallsend, Stewards who had imposed themselves as Leaders of the action, told workers that they had decided to call off the occupation. Workers then stated that the Stewards had no right to do this and that only at a mass assembly of all workers, such as happened at City Hall, could the decision be made to abandon the occupation be taken. It was then stated by the Stewards that their decision was final and no vote would be taken. That morning occupations throughout the shipyards were abandoned and strike headquarters set up.

Upper Clyde Shipyards – the scene of struggle some thirteen years ago), Yarrow and Scott Lithgow who are at present faced with another 1,000 redundancies, attended bringing messages of support. It was stated that this dispute could not be lost and financial donations would be sent every week. The comradely support however only stretched as far as levies and collections, no talk of made of any solidarity action.

At the rally speeches were made from the floor by rank and filers who stated that the stewards had stabbed them in the back and their only weapon had been sold out for a Management lie, these speeches heard the loudest cheers and applause, not only from the Swans workers but also from from shipyard workers the length and breadth of the country who had organised buses to attend.

As has been mentioned at present the strike is solid though in the future, hardship may eventually begin to drive people back to work. Donations are urgently required. The Shipyard workers on the Tyne are looking for a victory, more direct action tactics may soon be taken again,

Though the strike is at present almost 100% solid, with only Management and a few scabs crossing picket lines, it is difficult to see where the action goes from here. For months the Swan Hunter Management, along with the Government have attempted to force strike action. Attempts by Management on this score have included the ripping up of both local and national agreements and victimisation of workers. The plan is to make the yards as economically viable as possible and so lay the grounds for privatisation.

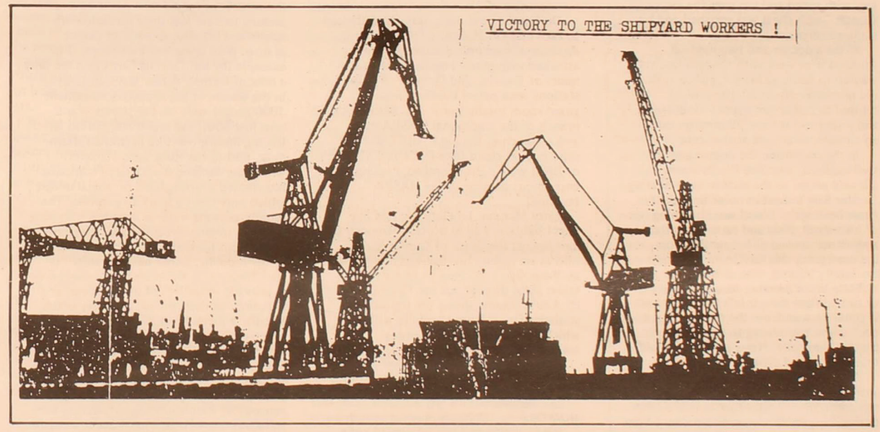
Strike action on the Tyne has the affect of saving wages and running costs along with making the yards look even more of a waste of the tax payers money. The occupation was the only real weapon the workers had, this has now been given up by the stewards on the grounds that their negotiations would begin if the occupation was called off. These negotiations have obviously not come about and the stewards are now beginning to realise they have made a major mistake.

20th September saw a mass rally in support of the strikers, delegates from up and down the country (including from

SWAN'S STRIKE APPEAL CON/FED

the Stewards have lost a major part of their respect. Donations shall not win the workers their dispute, industrial action must be organised by all those that work in and supply the Shipbuilding Industry. Solidarity, rank and file control and direct action are their own keys to victory.

TYNESIDE REVOLUTIONARY SYNDICALISTS.



MORE BACKGROUND NEWS ON THE STRIKE.

6th week now. . . They have a soup kitchen based at a place, memorial hall, and already the young single lads are starting to suffer, as in the miners strike.

Management have been seen photographing pickets and sound recording and have also sent Health Insoectors round to stop the soup kitchen which is based in a union hall and is pretty dilapidated.

Management have also been hassling the salaried workers who have stayed out. Typists were threatened with sack etc. if they do not cross picket lines. This has often been after pickets have managed to persuade them to stay out.

The strike is 'unofficial' although they aim to get backing this week if a settlement is not reached. If no settlement is reached then they say they will be out for a long time.

There are 3,500 hourly paid workers out on strike. They are solid with few scabs and picket lines are said to be good humoured and policing local but all this could change when or if scabs from the hourly workers start to drift back. That is a big IF. All the men in the yards now do not want to leave as all those wanting redundancies have left. The men realise how decimated the Tyne etc. will be if they lose the battle. Already you can walk down the town and see where the yards have been bulldozed so that they may never work again.

Morale is good with plenty of humour on the picket lines although it is costing a lot to maintain and stem the hardship with those getting electric cut off, etc.

LATE NEWS

As we go to press we hear that the seven-week strike at the four Swan Hunter shipyards on Tyneside was called off on 15th October. 3,000 strikers decided unanimously at a mass meeting to return to work after peace talks between management and national union officials.

Speaking for the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, Mr Alan Wilkinson, said the company had agreed to withdraw a disputed document which had allowed supervisors to suspend and discipline workers. They also had conceded that contrary to earlier demands, it was not practical to take tea breaks on board the ships.

A third complaint of the unions concerning plans to mothball one of the four yards at Hebburn will now be re-examined by both sides.

Swan Hunter is now devoted to warship building.

MINERS NEWS

BOSSES UNION

As if to underline from the outset that the mainly Nottinghamshire based Union of Democratic Mineworkers (strike-breakers) is to be an out and out bosses union, its Leaders have announced that once formally constituted the UDM will outlaw all forms of solidarity/secondary picketing as a matter of principle and that current government anti-union legislation will be obeyed in all aspects.

As has been widely reported, the UDM is to receive preferential treatment from the National Coal Board on the question of pay increases. NCB chief MacGregor, has stated, partly in order to influence the forthcoming ballot by the renegade areas, that the UDM will be offered special incentive increases as well as increases in bonus payments, etc.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EXTRA

INTERNATIONAL LETTER

European friends,

Tuesday to Thursday 19-21 November 1985, Reagan and Gorbatchev meet in Geneva. We want to give them the welcome they deserve. We propose that you come from all parts of Europe occupied by the dollar or red army to tell them what we want.

This first letter is just to announce the event, so that you can discuss it and then spread the word. Let us know your suggestions. As for us we intend to start right away. The idea is to increase the temperature gradually until the grand finale.

There will be an international demonstration the preceding Saturday Nov. 16. But our idea is to also organise a camp of anti-BLOC savages *during* the summit. A place from which to organise a few surprises Those who wish to come give us a hand will be very welcome. Music and action. Derision and discussion.

For those who can't make it, send us texts or any kind of 'welcome' (poems, stickers, posters, etc.) that you would have used if those two sinister clowns had come to *your* town. For once we want Geneva to be worthy of its 'international' reputation! We will use all this material in the city, in a collective text and on a local free radio.

A few thoughts:
– If they make missiles its to use them. They come to Geneva just to count them.
– Gorbatchev and his dollars, Reagan and his planified economy are just the head and tail of the same coin: the URSA.
– This year they do their act in Geneva, capital of international banditism. They divide the world the better to occupy it.
– Meanwhile, what's on with Swiss capital? (Indelicate question: Switzerland is per capita the most imperialist country in the world. Seven times more money invested abroad than the USA. Swiss banks collaborate with the occupying forces (in Poland too!).

The third force wasn't invited-to this summit. Let's make ourselves heard!

Les Guerrileros de l'Espace
7 Rue de la Faucille
Geneve 1201, SUISSE

RIOTS - HOME AND ABROAD

West Germany - Anti-Fascist Killed by Police

In the course of protests against a meeting of old and young Nazis in a communal building in Frankfurt, one of the anti-fascists, Gunter Sare, aged 36, was run over by a police water cannon tank end and fatally injured on Saturday night 28th September of this year.

As eye-witnesses confirm Gunter Sare had been hit by a jet of water which threw him on the pavement, as he was the last in a group of protestors who tried to escape from police attacks. He managed to get on to his feet again and then tried to continue his escape.

In that very moment, at exactly 8.52pm a second water cannon tank was approaching with speed and ran over the escapee. Gunter Sare's chest was smashed and his skull was broken.

When a doctor and two medical students who were with the anti-fascists wanted to come to his aid, police at first did not let them do so. The police refused to call an emergency ambulance and in the end it took 22 minutes until an ambulance arrived at the scene.

In the meantime the doctor and the two students, who had finally been allowed access to the victim, were beating Gunter Sare's chest in order to make his heart beat again. Blood was streaming out of his mouth, nose and ears. When the ambulance arrived at last, at 21.14pm, the emergency doctors' team took over the fatally injured, who at that time nobody knew whether he was still alive or dead. When the car left the crossroads it could be seen from the outside that a doctor was continuing to beat Gunter's chest rythmically. News began to spread that Gunter had died.

At the scene of the fatal police attack, anti-fascists and police remained though not confronting each other as it had been during the previous hour (from about 8pm on when anti-fascists tried to barricade the house where the fascists wanted to meet). The police launched baton attacks on them and thus formed a small path amidst the anti-fascists through which the Nazis were led into the building — once again German police were sheltering fascists!) but mixed in groups. For a short time the previous street fights seemed to be forgotten, people felt paralysed by deep horror and speechless fury. Some started to freak out and wanted to go for the coppers on their own and had to be kept back by others.

Soon shouts came up from the crowd, only a few at first but more and stronger later: 'Pigs', 'SS', 'Murderers', 'Fascists'.

'They have murdered one of us, we will hurl our hate against them' someone was shouting through the megaphone. Groups of anti-fascists began to leave the scene in various directions, chased by the police. The first windows of supermarkets and banks were smashed, under a bridge, waste containers were set on fire, burning worksmateral was thrown on the streets, 40 minutes after the killing the local Mercedes-Benz branch was burning, which is only 200 metres from the scene of the killing, causing £500,000 worth of damage. During the night groups of militants continued to express their sorrow and their fury.

Soon the news spread to other cities in West Germany.

Within half an hour of Gunter Sare's death, people in Hamburg which is about 300 miles north of Frankfurt knew what had happened. Early on Sunday morning, between 2 and 3am the first police car was stoned and petrol bombed by anti-fascists in the Hefenstrasse area, near the harbour, a former squat. Later barricades were built and when the police started to attack the approximately 100 protestors the police were stoned and bottled by them. and from inside the houses as well. Unfortunately police later managed to get into the houses, arrested 57 (45 were released soon after with 12 facing charges of 'breaking the peace').

Some hours after that, at about 5am the same night, a local police station was petrol bombed, setting its entrance on fire, two police cars nearby were burnt out. The following night at about 5pm 200 anti-fascists marched through a shopping arcade in the Altona area of Hamburg, quickly smashing 300 windows of shops and banks and gambling dens, shouting slogans like 'Police — SS'. The demonstrators were more or less undisturbed by the police, who had been sent to the townhall as there was supposedly stone-throwing there. The demonstrators then made their way to the St. Pauli area, thereby smashing the windows of a local police station and throwing a petrol bomb inside — but only causing a rather small fire. The whole direct action lasted only thirty minutes and before the police had realized what was going on, everything was done with no one arrested.

During the next days, actions continued to take place in Hamburg (as elsewhere). Again and again police stations were attacked with petrol bombs. In the early hours of Tuesday 2nd October, 3 police stations were petrol bombed, causing enourmous damage to the HASPA building).

Until Monday 1st October, riot like street fights as well as protest demonstrations against the death of Gunter Sare — who as we commonly feel was murdered by the police in defense of fascists — had taken place throughout the Federal Republic. A first resume shows the following statistics (apart from Hamburg with which was dealt in detail before):

HANOVER — 300 people smashed windows of banks, shops and gambling dens in the Linden area, shouting 'Brixton, Frankfurt, Transvaal — coppers murder everywhere', no one was arrested.

MUNICH — 70 people marched through the streets, destroyed 7 cars (of which 1 was a police car), 11 arrested.

GUTTINGEN — During the first town nights after the killing of Gunter Sare about 80 people, mainly from autonomous groups, caused damage of £50,000. Smashing windows of 14 banks, supermarkets and shops, no one arrested.

DULSBURG — 300 in the city, heavy police 'security measures', but no-one arrested. (Duisburg in is the industrial Ruhr area).

FRELBURG — £25,000 damage during the night from Sunday to Monday, with bank and shop windows being the main targets; 6 arrested.

WUPPERTAL/ELBERGELD — Petrol bomb attack on police station, damaged police car, no one arrested.

MUNSTER — Smashed police station windows.

NURNBERG/ERLANGER — 300 people marched through the streets, rather quietly, some windows smashed, no one arrested.

Furthermore protest marched in Mannheim (numerous shopping wondows smashed), Lulbeck, Braunschweig, Stuttgart, Karlruhe, Uelze. On Wednesday 3 October about 300 gathered in the market of Gottingen for a protest demonstration. Extremely heavy police presence in full riot gear, and the whole area was sealed off. When the demonstration started double chains of coppers on both flanks of the march, while there was a strong contingent of police in front and on its end. From outside it must have looked like a police demonstration, and with only a black and red flag being waved from the middle as the only 'counterpart'; feeling of high tension, but no fights (it would have been a 'Kamikaze' action), no one arrested.

COMMENT (One week later)

Last week's partially riot-like reactions to the police murder of Gunter Sare have proved a new 'quality' of the radical left's militancy in W. Germany. Above all it is remarkable that sutdent towns — once the centres of rebellion — never before seemed to have lost their revolutionary spirits and activites to such an extent as now. With some few exceptions (For example the militants of Gottingen are only a relic of former 'better' days; in 1981 in the course of the squatters movement 3000 people were on the streets — and now just 300!) the revolt has shifted to the big metropoles like Frankfurt, Hamburg, Berlin, the Ruhr area, Hanover, where the decline, the 'crisis of capitalism' has created a strong basis of 'social unrest', which only need a spark to explode. The rapidly growing 'reserve army' of part time workers, unemployed and social welfare dependants particularly in the big cities of the republic, either have organised or start to organise themselves autonomously as growing initiatives of unemployed and part-time workers prove, who very often breathe a social-revolutionary spirit and practise direct action (the old Wobbly-symbol 'Black Cat' is their banner). These activists have learnt from previous social struggles (resistance against nuclear power stations, against the new military run way of Frankfurt Airport, during the squatters movement. They have lost many illusions and feel that they don't have much to loose but a lot to win; quite a few had already been in jail for 'riotous behaviour' and they cannot be easily scared.

For instance there was a scene in Frankfurt when a group of six militants gathered at a street corner, with a police blockade facing them at the end of the street at about 200 metres distance. Under the eyes of those coppers they calmly filled up some bottles with petrol — the police didn't dare to try to catch them — then threw the cocktails at the police and disappeared immediately afterwards.

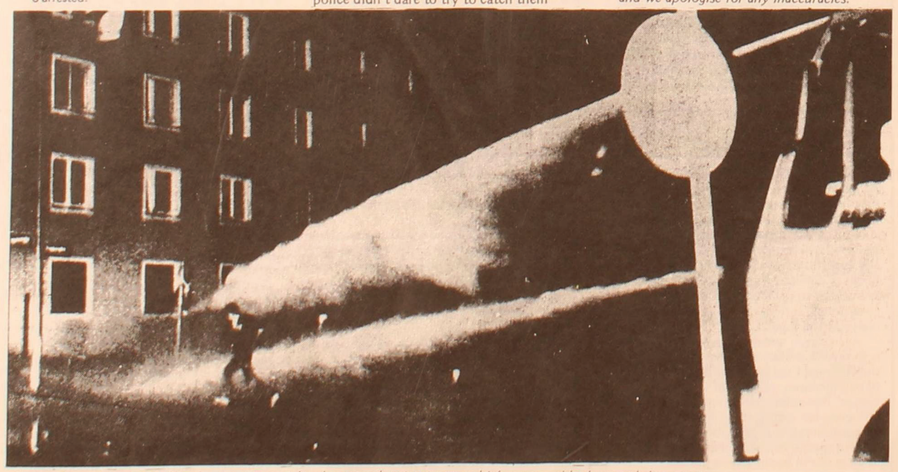
Secondly it is most important that those protests in the metropolises had no centre. Direct actions were carried out independently in different quarters of the cities at the same time — very much to the confusion of the police and the bourgeois press, who desperately try to blame responsibility on a certain 'hard core of notorious elements' (sounds familiar). That makes it very difficult if not impossible for the state forces to calculate resistance and revolts.

Nowhere the level of social revolutionary organisation seems to have such a high development than in Hamburg, one of the strong holds of the unemployed and part-time worker initiatives.

In Hamburg the effective protests against the killing of Gunter Sare met with the fury about the permanent social conditions in that city. The culminating point of social dissatisfaction is housing. The bourgeois' mongering against the squats in the Hafebstrasse area and alternative housing projects in three other streets (Jagerpassage, Chemnitzstr., Pinnasberg — where 120 people would be affected — who still negotiate with the town council for legislation).

Until last week town council and the radical left in Hamburg estimated that the police would be able to move the squatters out of the Hefenstrasse squats, without being able to organise solidarity actions in other town quarters. A lot of discussion on how to defend the squats had been made and as last weekend has proved they were fruitful (parallel actions in different parts of the city weakened and confused the police who did not know which group to concentrate on). It was shown to the town council and to the public that the houses cannot be 'cleared up' without having to pay a high political and material price — the ruling class have to take into account that there will be damage and smashings all over Hamburg when they try to attack. Social relations between social revolutionaries and their neighbours in the town quarter are quite intact. For instance immediately after the killing of Gunter Sare the 'Cafe and Bookshop' changed its window decoration. On the window it was sprayed 'Sorrow is not enough!', inside the shop window petrol bomb dummies. little black 'bomblets', broken glass pieces and paving stones are exposed. The owners of nearby shops show no irritation about this. When they call in at the bookshop to do some photocoping, they behave as always — talkative, friendly and curious — a nice area indeed!

As we received this article shortly before publication the translation was not checked, and we apologise for any inaccuracies.



Gunter Sare — seconds before he was run over by the second watercannon which came suddenly round the corner.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

PIETRO VALPREDA FOUND NOT GUILTY

On August 1st, in the court of Bari, the trial of the persons charged with the Piazza Fontana bombing (December 12, 1969) came to an end. All of the principal accused, including the anarchist Pietro Valpreda and the fascists Franco Freda and Giovanni Ventura were acquitted for 'insufficient proof'. But this may well not be the last to be heard about what was the longest, and the most complex and tumultuous political trial in recent Italian history. Proceeding in order, the following will retrace the major outlines of this political/legal event.

THE BOMBING

On December 12th 1969, shortly before closing time, an explosion rocks the headquarters of the Bank of Agriculture, resulting in 16 deaths and 100 wounded. In contemporary Italy, this marks the first activity of this kind and scope.

In December 1969, the Italian social and political climate is already in a very heated state: the campus struggles which began in 1968 are continuing, and major working-class sectors are still combative . (Autumn 1969 has already been dubbed 'the hot Autumn'). The journals and the moderate and conservative forces are calling for the agitation to come to a halt, and are serving up a steady diet of invocations to 'law and order'. For the 14th of December, a national metal workers' strike is planned (traditionally the most militant working-class sector; a tense government awaits the outcome. On the 12th comes the bombing, and other bombs are defused in Milan (near the Commercial Bank) and in Rome. The effect throughout the country is immense.

THE ANARCHISTS

Immediately after the bombing, responsibility is attributed to the 'exteme left' by the Milan police, who specify that their search is oriented towards the anarchist milieu. By the middle of the night on December 12, more than 100 anarchists (young militants, veteran anti-fascists, journalists, people who have been out of contact with the movement for years etc) find themselves behind bars in Milan. Most are released after a few hours, but a number are detained, amongst them Guiseppi Pinelli, 40 years of age, a railroad worker, and an anarchist since his youth (when he participated in the anti-fascist resistance movement).

Pinelli is well known (and not only at the copshop) for his intense commitment to anarchist activites. Amongst other involvements, he is a member of the Porta Della Ghiselta anarchist circle, and works as well with the Anarchist Black Cross (delivering packages to imprisoned comrades).

Pinelli, arrested on the evening of December 12 near the meeting place of the anarchist circle on Scaldasole Street, is told by the police that it is a question of a 'simple formality', and drives to the station on his scooter, followed by the police. Three days later, he leaves 'head first' through the window of the eigth floor office of Commissioner Calebresi. Versions of his 'suicide' are quickly furnished by the police that are so contradictory and farfetched that public opinion immediately centres on the possibility of an assassination.

On Monday December 15, Pietro Valpreda is arrested. Valpreda, an anarchist, makes his living as a professional dancer. 'He's the monster'; 'the beast responsible for all the tears' typifies the reaction of the press. A flurry of articles about the history of the anarchist movement appears in the mass media, representing anarchism as a lunatic sect, and its adherents as terrorists, or terrorists-in-the-making. This is only the beginning of a vast anti-anarchist campaign, whose principal goal is to 'proove' that Valpreda, Pinelli 'who committed suicide' and their comrades are logically to be held responsible for grisly activity of this nature. This campaign also represents a desire to strike a blow against a movement which, especially after the upsurge which took place after the May '68 events in France, symbolizes wide-spread anti-authoritarian tendencies and tensions within a larger protest movement.

AGAINST THE REPRESSION

Immediately following Pinelli's death and Valpreda's arrest, the Milan anarchists hold a press conference, attracting numerous journalists, near the headquarters of the Porta Della Ghiselta anarchist circle. The anarchist version can be summarized by three slogans which will reappear on the walls and at demonstrations in the months and years to follow: Pinelli was assassinated; Valpreda is innocent; The State is responsible for the Piazza Fontana bombing. The Anarchists do not limit themselves to pinning specific responsibility for the bombing on the fascists, but underline the responsibility of the representatives of power, and their cynical manipulation of fascist criminal tendencies. The next day, the press will qualify this as 'delirious'.

One hundred anarchists are present at Pinelli's funeral, as well as more police (at least 300) than representatives of the left.

In the following weeks, a campaign in favour of the imprisoned anarchists and against the repression is undertaken, spreading out progressively from the anarchists to leftist circles. As the months go by, a broad anti-repression 'front' develops as a reaction to the patently unjust and repressive activities of the state. A campaign of denunciation and counter-information spreads to all of the cities in Italy, causing an enormous impact.

The different trials surrounding the 'Pinelli case' plainly reveal the criminal nature of power, and the non-existence of the Judicial sector's 'indepedence' with respect to political power. Pinelli is clearly innocent, and an image of his personality takes form as someone who was a lucid and committed activist. Pinelli will turn into a veritable boomerang for the wielders of authority.

VALPREDA'S IMPRISONMENT

While this is taking place, Valpreda and other young anarchists that he was active with remain in prison. This situation is considered unnaceptable to an ever-widening sector of public opinion, which is influenced by revelations that are coming out of the judicial enquiries, concerning Valpreda in particular, the fact that his predicament is based in large part on the testimony of a taxi driver, who will end up dead as it turns out, who claims, to have taken him for a 200 metre trip (a ridiculous concoction). The taxi driver then recognizes Valpreda from a police portrait, etc., etc.: one injustice is piled on the next.

Ultimately, in 1972, the *Corriere della Sera*, Italy's major daily 'rallies' to the campaign for Valpreda's release. But this is out of the question, because the very serious nature of the act of which he is accused precludes the benefit of conditional release. The pressure of public opinion is such that parliament is obliged to pass a law (called the Valpreda law) specifically to permit his release (and of those who at one point will find themselves in a similar situation within the judicial process). In January 1983, Valpreda is set free. For the anti-repression campaign, set in motion by the anarchists at the December 17 1969 press conference, it is a resounding victory.

THE TRIAL

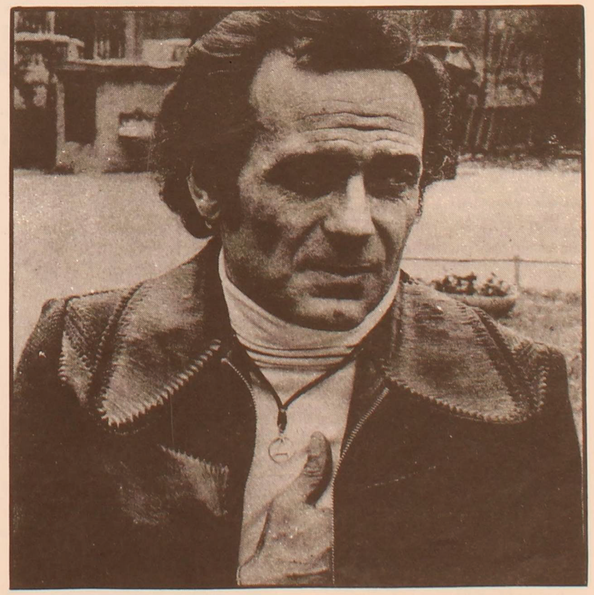
The trials, in effect, would be a more accurate description. Beginning in Milan, it is transferred to a different court in Rome resulting in a general acquittal for insufficient proof. It then goes through an appeal process in Catanzaro, in the southern tip of Italy, again resulting in an acquittal for Valpreda, and convictions and prison terms for the fascists. A superior court (located in Rome) then annuls the Catanzaro sentence and orders the trial to begin again in Bari. The final phase concludes on August 1 1985 with an acquittal for all of the accused for 'insufficient proof'.

As events unfold, the light shed on the methods employed proves as important as the final outcome. In the course of 100 court sessions, the true essence of power is highlighted: the cheap tricks and violence; the shady manoeuverings of the secret police; the cover-ups and the roles played by the political parties, etc... Ministers, generals and politicians are called to the witness stand, and are themselves put on trial and the verdicts rendered.

On a legal level, nearly 16 years after the Piazza Fontana explosion (which is now commonly known in Italy as the 'state bombing'), precisely who ordered as well as who carried out the bombings has yet to be determined. The responsibility of the state in this affair, on the other hand, has become crystal clear.

During the 1970s, profound political/social transformations were taking place in Italy, as the period witnessed the appearance of the phenomenon of urban guerrilla activity (dominated by the Stalinist Red Brigades) and the state's repressive response. However, more than any other event (including the infamous kidnapping and assassination of Aldo Moro, preisdent of the ministers' Council, by the Red Brigades), the Piazza Fontana bombing and Pinelli's assassination have made an emotional impact, and have found a place in peoples' memories. The anarchist campaign of counter-information and denunciation of the state's political manoeuverings was successful in deflecting authority's grasp from its intended victims,

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



Pietro Valpreda walks free at last.

WHAT IS THE ITALIAN SECRET SERVICE PLANNING NOW?

This is the suspicion aroused by the report of SISDE (the part of the Italian secret service concerned with internal security) to the government, published in *L'Expresso* on the 8th Spetember.

SISDE predicts a renewal of terrorist activities for this autumn, in Italy, from the Right, but more especially from the Left — just as they had last Autumn some months before the December train-bomb near Bologna.

The Red Brigade, claims SISDE, is actively re-forming and planning new attempts, as evidenced by that on the life of the economist Tarantelli in Rome this year, but equally further afield in Turin: 'in order' it is said, 'to win credibility in the workers' movement'.

The disturbing 'news', however, conveyed by the report, concerns the 'resurrection' of a terrorist group called Azione Rivoluzionaria (Revolutionary Action) — a group of libertarian tendency which has been disbanded for years, but now, says SISDE, is reforming.

According to SISDE, members of this group in the suburbs of Rome, are planning, at some indeterminate date, a sensational affront meant to hit hard at the State; and to this end, claims SISDE, they are colluding with 'various anarchists' and opening negotiations with arms dealers for more sophisticated weapons.

The allusion couldn't be more obvious: 'the anarchist movement constitutes a front for terrorism'; and at this point it is opportune to ask what new anti-anarchist initiative is behind it?

The bourgeois press, for one, hasn't lost any time in raising the alarm, quoting uncritically from the report and adding its own twists, as for instance *Il Tirreno* (the paper of Leghorn) who announced 'a summit of Red Brigade and anarchist groups'. (sic.).

If the mere existence of an anarchist movement is so unnerving for the State as to force it s hand in the way of criminalising anarchists, comrades may know themselves what to expect.

To give, at the same time, a new credence to the old 'theory of opposing extremisms', SISDE also predicts a return of fascist terrorism — something we can take their word for, knowing how familiar the secret services are with the world of nazi - fascism.

Vincenzo Parisi himself, the head of SISDE had a very illustrious colleague in General Musumeci, head of SISMI (Italian Military Intelligence) who has been implicated in the massacre at Bologna station, in 1980, which killed 83 people.

RIOTS - HOME AND ABROAD

WE IDENTIFY THE OUTSIDE AGITATORS

POLICE BLITZ — MAD DOG NEWMAN!

The rantings of Police Chief Newman on television during the past weeks are as extraordinary as anything seen in TV dramas. Speaking like the conquering Governor of a defeated city, he warned Londoners that if riots continued he would not stop at CS gas, water cannon or plastic bullets.

The threat of death if any of his loyal officers came to grief was reminiscent of Himmler (nazi founder of INTERPOL); and is commonplace in Belfast and Beirut. Gas knows no boundaries and nerve gas strikes the old and vulnerable rather than 'the enemy' — or perhaps it is all London that is the enemy? — while water cannon can be deadly to spectators, and plastic bullets kill children (as we know from the Belfast situation).

When did London submit to Newman? What makes Mrs Thatcher think it belongs to her? Is Newman to be the new Franco? These questions were answered by Newman when he made his attacks on 'anarchists and activists'. We do not suppose that when Newman attacked Anarchists he had real Anarchists in mind — he was attacking the whole left wing with what he thought was the stigma of anarchism. The Haringey councillors who declined to oppose their people weren't 'anarchists' but then perhaps Newman will argue he's not a 'fascist' either — he just happens to be an authoritarian rightist.

Mrs Thatcher *does* think she owns the whole country. Her new spokesperson has stated she is the 'chairman' of 'Great Britain Inc.'

London *has* submitted to Newman, and the sooner it wakes up and throws him out the better.

BLACK SQUATTERS TO DEFY BAILIFFS — CULTURAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

CAP are a new black group, based in the Brixton area, whose aim is to expose the oppression of culture, to 'educate, re-educate, motivate and activate'.

The group was started off by the poet Spartacus R, and they began with a series of Sunday street meetings, which went down well. Then, on the night of the Brixton riot, they occupied an excellent building (left empty for 5½ years!) at 414-416 Coldharbour Lane, right in the middle of Brixton.

The next day, as sporadic rioting continued, 100's of people turned up for the street meeting, and were surrounded by riot cops. The meeting went ahead with at least 500 people at the old Front Line in Railton Road, despite heavy police pressure.

In their new centre the CAP are starting a variety of projects, a creche, music, African language, video, photography and martial arts workshops, poetry, drama meetings, Afro-Caribbean restaurant and Cultural Awareness Training Workshops. CAP is a black group, but they're not separatist as well as being non-Party, anti-sexist, etc. As squatters they have linked up with Brixton Squatters alarm list.

Stop the Eviction

The new CAP centre is owned by Toplands Holdings Ltd., a typical group of faceless big business that owns and exploits inner-city properties. They have refused negotiations and offers of rent and taken out a High Court Eviction case in the Strand for 17th October — 11am. The case will be picketed and the eviction resisted all the way — CAP see the eviction as an example of 'colonialism within the State' — the Colonisation of poor areas by the rich and the misuse of our resources.

Any attempt to evict the CAP will be fully resisted by all the squatters and the black community and is bound to lead to a new uprising.

Genuine helpers are welcome to call at the Centre, or ring 2740138 anytime. The Sunday programme runs from 2 to 7pm.

Over the last two weeks the Press and TV have engaged in a sustained and concerted campaign whose targets have been 'outside agitators' — named as the hidden evil behind the rioting in Brixton, Peckham, Tottenham and in other parts of the country.

Without wishing to shock the faint-hearted or the gullible, we have to state from the outset that these allegations about outside agitators are not crude attempts to deflect blame on to scapegoats but are, in fact, absolutely true. These outsiders are easily identifiable and have been roaming estates and inner city areas throughout the country, deliberately stirring up trouble. None of these extremists come from those areas; they are true outsiders. They are also part of a highly organised mobile force that is able to call upon vast reserves at a given notice to inflict even more violence upon the areas where they congregate. That they are practitioners of terrorism is beyond question. Known sometimes as the armed wing of government, they are more commonly known as the Police.

These thugs in unform recently caused the death of Cynthia Jarrett and serious injury to Cherry Groce, in two separate incidents, and in the ensuing violence that followed many of these thugs experienced direct retribution and one of their kind was killed. The pattern for the future has been set: no member of this organised gang of killers shall act with impunity but instead will face directly the consequences of their collective actions. The violence of Tottenham and the other inner city areas has been a warning to these state terrorists: escalate the attacks on the communities and the communities will pay *like with like*, with the Police getting a taste of their own medicine. Bring in CS gas or plastic bullets and the communities will arm themselves with whatever is at their disposal.

When the Press refer to 'outsiders' they, of course, refer not to the Police but to those outside the immediate riot area who come to provide solidarity to those in the communities under attack. The Press, predictably, come out with the 'outsiders' (a euphemism usually for anarchists) rubbish on Police orders and also for propaganda reasons. Their twisted way of looking at things dictates that any mutual assistance to working class class communities from comrades in other working class communities must be designated as the 'enemy without'. They attempt to stigmatise solidarity as a means of deflecting public criticism away from the Poloce. While it is alright for the Police, apparently, to deploy 'Mutual Aid' policing to further their own cause, any attempt to use similar tactics by working class communities, whether in picketing (as in the Miners Strike) or through mutual support between the inner city areas, then that is condemned by the Press on the simple grounds that the odds are being evened up.

The police can call in reserve forces from different parts of a city (as with the London inner city rioting) or from neighbouring constabularies (as with Handsworth or with the mass picketing of the Miners Strike) and seal off whole neighbourhoods or villages (as with the pit villages or the inner city areas of Brixton, and Peckham and when they laid siege to the Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham after the rioting had ceased and on the following days).

The good news, though, is that police violence is now beginning to be resisted on a scale that such violence demands. In the Tottenham riot, for example, over 250 police officers were injured and there were only 15 arrests. The bad news is that the resistance in the working class communities and in the industries is not yet taking place *simultaneously*, not have divisions between white and black working class communities been fully overcome in the greater need for unity against a common enemy. . . but we're getting there.

It is the fear of working class solidarity or mutual aid that prompts the press to try and scare its readers about 'outsiders'. In this way the Press only show just how stupid they are: any 'outsiders' who come to assist in a strike or when a community is under attack are not turned away — unless, of course, they are recognised as police-paid agent provocateurs — but are welcomed. The real outsiders are those who ultimately seek to divide us. Here we mean the Police, obviously, and also all racists and lackeys of the State generally, journalists, political party hacks, etc. — but also those who exploit class anger for their own ends (e.g. muggers of the poor, rapists, scabs, arsonists who burn down working class homes etc.)

If there is a message of the 1985 riots — and there is every sign that more rioting is yet to come — it is clear and simple: *no working class community needs to fight alone*. Although the Police are highly organised and do have the reserves as well as the weaponry (to be met by our own weaponry), providing we all fight together, we stand a chance. The problem — and the solution — for the inner cities and working class communities generally, is the same problem and solution that faces the fight back within industry: mutual aid and how it can be organised better. The day when the institutions of the State are simultaneously fought on the streets in the housing estates in cities and towns throughout the land and when workers in industries strike together in solidarity — that is the day when we will begin to create revolution.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

FAU-IWA comrades contacted 121 Bookshop enquiring about the Brixton riot and 121 in turn sent a telegram to the FAU in Frankfurt which we have been told was read out at a public demonstration /meeting near the spot Gunter Sare was killed. *In Brixton they shoot us. There they run us down in the street. Down with police brutality. Down with the NDP fascists. Gunter Sare is not forgotten /International solidarity!* Tuesday October First, 1985.





Armed police agitators in Tottenham.

Police to Blame!

Youth fury against racist police murderers exploded in Tottenham on Sunday October 6, just a week after anti-police riots in Brixton. As in Brixton, the death of a black woman, Mrs Cynthia Jarrett, during a police raid was the trigger that unleashed years of hatred directed exclusively against police thuggery.

Being young in Britain is no longer an attractive prospect. It means unemployment or YTS slavery, run down housing estates, daily police harassment and no money to spend. If you're black there's the added humiliation of racism. With no voting or spending (i.e. economic) powers those in authority have deliberatley ignored and walked over the young. Now they are paying the price. They thought they could cut benefits and force YTS schemes onto young people. After all, if they could defeat an organised body of workers like the miners, what hope would the dis-organised, inexperienced young have?

They were wrong! They forgot that when you treat people like animals they will *resist and fight back*. The sheer hatred directed at the police in Tottenham sent shivers down the spine of those in authority as that hatred runs far deeper and is more profound than any amount of CS gas or plastic bullets will contain. In desperation and vengeance, the police are arming themselves in readiness for the next inevitable confrontation. As it becomes increasingly clear that the police exist to serve the ruling classes and to repress working class resistance, so the police get less bothered about their 'community' image and get ready to wipe out all political opposition.

The police aren't stupid. They didn't waste much time by taking advantage of the latest wave of riots to arm themselves with CS gas and plastic bullets. (Something they've wanted to do for years). And why not have a swipe at Anarchists by blaming them for the whole thing at the same time!



COMMENT

An Introduction to Modern Politics

1. Populism

Feudalism, autocracy and kingship took no account of nationality. The bonds of ruling stretched beyond national or racial boundaries. To gain popular support, when they thought they needed it, and did not just distain it, they used the authority of the Church. Rulers were 'appointed by God', therefore rebels against the ruling powers were flying in the face of religion and natural order.

With the rise of the middle class, the cosmopolitanism of the aristocracy was held as treason. National feelings became their standard and the treacherous attitude of kings led to their downfall. as the kings saw it, 'treason' was waging war against the king. But when middle class nationalism became the norm there was a confrontation with the working class. The middle class now saw rebellion by the workers as being treacherous because, though they did not see themselves as put there by God (though some went near to thinking that), the natural cosmopolitanism of the working class would be treason against the national State and moreover would displace them.

This is how 'populism' was born — as a deliberate counter-balance to revolutionary working class movements that challenged capitalism, and the liberalism that opened the gates to them.

It is essentially working class in character but opposed to working class policy, or any manifestation of working class power. It takes various shapes according to the national character of the middle class, but essentially it is Loyalism and enshrines the 'good old' virtues which it believes threatened. Fearing individuality, it cherishes violence, but that of the lynch law mob, whereby superior, because prepared violence is directed by a gang or temporary/local majority against an unpopular minority (or as was the case in the USA down South, against a majority it intends by unpopularity to keep in minority status); or against opponents caught alone. Football hooliganism is the latest manifestation — national war the highest.

American Grassroots Populism

In the USA, populism has been an integral part of a grassroots movement that has both a solid working class basis, and a solid bias against working class organisation or policies, reinforced with a bias against liberalism. It has been nourished by the rising capitalist class whose main source of propagandising has been 'the old-fashioned religion'. The rebel churches that rejected the Church and feudalism of Europe have in their turn become the guardians of the ruling class.

Fundamentalist religion with its appeal to ignorance and bigotry serves the Populism of North America. The KKK — 'the political wing of the Presbyterian Church' — infiltrated it with its racial policies, but these are today weakening as the main pillar of populism, and the modern populists are associated with 'red neck' Christianity, tax avoidance, hatred of States rights (but with a commitment to central State obedience and patriotism), in survivalism, dislike of city folk etc.

German Anti-Semitism

In Germany, Populism was more or less associated with the Catholic Right and its dislike of city folk, liberalism and capitalism generally supporting the landlord Junker class as the bulwark of traditional Germany. But the Junkers were secretly selling out to the growing capitalist class . So the Populists solved their dilemma by aligning themselves with the anti-Semitic movement. Indeed, anti-semitism as an independent political force, and especially as a stick to beat the growth of working class movements, and liberal 'tolerance', was invented by Populists in the 1880s. 'Bad capitalist Jews' presumed good capitalist Christians.

Anti-Semitism, as currently anti-Asianism, appeals to the Populist since they can show they are actively bashing the capitalist or entrepreneur without actually challenging capitalism, and so be approved and often financed by other capitalists, far higher up on the financial rung. But any other minority will do, and Catholics, Protestants, Atheists, liberal journalists, or scientists, can equally serve as scapegoats in different circumstances.

South German anti-semitism — more Catholic and less based on the racial, as distinct from the religious, myth-fostered the Catholic anti-Freemason populism that permeated many countries, and was a peasant-like hatred of the city, usually in an urban setting like Vienna.

North German populism, crossed with German Nationalism and other theories including the Nordic Superman theory actually turned inside out had a spectacular success when adopted by the Nazis. Originally thought of as merely Bavarian monarchist, they ditched the monarchy and led a rival 'socialist' movement with extraordinary vitality, so much so that — partly by vigilante methods (using bullyboy tactics against first one unpopular minority, then another, when its gangs encountered individuals; and so getting a reputation for thuggery, and therefore becoming necessary to the capitalists who were wondering how to get the country back to 'order') they not only conquered the working class — actually ranged against them — but succeeded in bringing many to their ranks, and finally, making their own capitalist paymasters bow down to their will.

It is one of the ironies of history that this particular train is now going backwards: German Nazism has been so indelibly stained in the eyes of the world, even the right wing — if not because of its excesses then certainly because of its military defeat — that many fascists today, seeking to escape from the fascist past allows no escape route for the politically ambitious, turn back to populism. In the National Front today, G.K. Chesteron and Hilaire Beeloc, and their distributism (Catholic Populism) is now offered as an alternative to the Hitler scenario.

Fascism, when invented by the post-adventurer Gabriele d'Annunzio, had no meaning, any more than Justicialism or Distributism, and that very jabberwockery made it an attractive name for an originally Populist movement which promised sound and fury, romantic nationalism and beating up stray workers and liberal professors, combined with a cult of youth, but no social change whatever. Mussolini, who replaced the cult of youth with the 'comradeship of the trenches' appeal, gave it point and power, and altered it from Populism to a clear meaning of its own (later copied by Hitler). The capitalists regarded him as a super-vigilante against the occupation of the factories, and were prepared to sacrifice a few trimmings to maintain the social fabric. Unlike Hitler, Mussolini never managed to conquer his financial backers.

In some countries it might appear that Populism has been allied with both left and right wing ideologies. This is because the blatant and widespread corruption of politicians and military have been dealing in international politics, and a 'bow' to Russia means they are described as 'left wing' while a 'bow' to America or its allies makes them as 'rightwing'. The Lebanon is a typical example.

The heyday of South American populism was in the Argentine, where Gen. Peron — or rather, Eva Peron, the real brains of the movement — made an appeal to the masses unprecedented in the annals of repressive right wing movements. They denied being fascist, because there was an undercurrent of hatred against fascism and capitalism, and proclaimed their own populist ideology, Peronism.

They called it by another fancy name, Justicialism, which meant exactly whatever they wanted it to mean. Eva 'slagged' the rich as much as anyone, but didn't want to see them disappear. On the contrary, she revelled in dressing in jewels and appearing at their fashionable balls and then asking for their jewellery; she would ostentatiously go out and present a diamond out of her hair and present it to an old woman scrubbing the steps saying graciously 'You have more need of this than I, my daughter' and going back and replacing it with another out of the collection!

Eva Peron's impassioned broadcasts to the 'shirtless' were full of appeals to hatred of the 'bad rich', insistence that they be punished, earning her the hatred of the well-to-do and high society in Buenos Aires. All the feelings of the 'mob' were diverted into demonstrations attacking the 'rich'; the English, the foreign capitalists. All that happened in the way of reform, when the Perons had unlimited power, were more, or less compulsory charity collections among the fashionable elite, who still remained a fashionable elite. The regime certainly incorporated fascist techniques, if by that we mean solely murder, torture, and suppression. But it did nothing to alter the economic basis of society, and that is the whole art and theory of Populist demagogy.



Liberalism

As we can see in England at the present time, there is far more hatred of liberal measures thought to favour blacks and Asians than there is of obviously capitalist ones. This is generated by ignorance (and bigotry)which takes its cue from the supposition given out as fact that the capitalist or State creates jobs or houses, that there are only so many to come round, and that anyone coming in takes the bread or roof of another. When the State had need of people to come in and fight during the war, there was no such prejudice.

The liberal argument that one should 'tolerate' is rejected. And tolerance is only the flip side of intolerance. Both imply having power. The anarchist argument that the workers create jobs and houses, and maintain the State and capitalism besides, destroys the populist argument when it is raised.

The scorning of liberalism which is a watchword of Populism, and became a major force of fascism, is understandable. Liberalism is seen at its true value, as a gesture of the professional class or ambitious politicians seeking votes, now epitomised in the Labour Party, and especially its 'left wing'. The distaste for State communism, and the excesses of Statism in Russia in particular, have been naturally appropriated by the Populists, and though expressed in absurd enough terms, is understandable. One can see how 'populism' has been able to be fuelled by a rightful scorning of liberalism and hatred for 'Marxism'. Sometimes it is racialist and sometimes it isn't. Its religious side is Fundamentalism; but it isn't necessarily Christian. Islamic populist movements, claiming to be socialistic and sometimes now, are a feature of the modern world.

Populism may either be directed at a vague 'The People' (as opposed to a working class); or directed at a wholly working class culture while denigrating working class organisations and any aspirations (in this form it appeals to the yobbo element today and therefore though not necessarily fascist or racialist, is regarded by fascists or racialists as something which they can influence or a pool in which they can swim.

But essentially it stands for *no change*; however demagogic, however powerful it may become, populism represents a standstill for capitalism. Its sole aim is to put an obstacle between the working class and social revolution, by offering them an outlet that sounds as if it might be revolutionary but is only hot air and knuckle-dusters. Only the emergence of a capable trained party and a charismatic, credible leader can take populism out of this morass and make it a workable tool for the capitalist class, or even ultimately dictate to its capitalist paymasters. Fortunately, no such party or leader exists at the present time in any part of the 'western' world. Nor is the capitalist class in Great Britain, certainly, and possibly not, so far as one knows, elsewhere in any great need of it, or him — or, it could now be, her. Only among the Islamic fundamentalists are there contestants for the role. Elsewhere, if there should be any mute inflorious Mussolini organising a march on Rome, there will result only a brief flutter of intensive publicity in the media, nothing more.

Albert Meltzer